FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, FOR THE FOREST YEAR 1894-95.

INTRODUCTION.

1. *Forest-conservancy-administration* in the Central Circle has undergone no change; it includes six districts:—

No.	District.	Area.	Population.	Cattle.
		Sq. m.		
1	Khándesh	10,907	1,460,851	1,231,096
2	Násik	5,940	843,582	844,949
3	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	1,295,473
4	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	981,547
5	Sátára	4,987	1,225,989	1,215,623
6	Sholápur	4,542	750,689	885,911
	Total ...	38,390	6,237,666	6,454,599

which for forest management are divided into seven forest divisions:—

No.	Forest Division.	Forest Area on 1st July 1894.	
		Sq. miles.	Acres.
1	East Khándesh	807	359
2	West Khándesh	1,578	485
3	Násik	1,279	129
4	Ahmednagar	846	374
5	Poona	708	224
6	Sátára	658	616
7	Sholápur	278	85
	Total ...	6,157	352

2. The *forest-area* of the Circle has increased by 159 square miles and 630 acres, and it stands at the close of the year at:—

	Square miles.	Acres.
Reserved forests	6,305	212
Protected „	12	130
Total ...	6,317	342

3. *Forest-settlements* are practically completed: 162 square miles and 249 acres of provisionally-notified forests were settled during the year, and 13 square miles and 395 acres were undergoing settlement when the year closed.

16. The forest area at the end of the year exhibits an increase of 159 square miles and 630 acres.

17. The changes which have occurred in divisional forest areas, and the causes of these changes, will be seen in this statement:—

No.	Division.	Reserved Forests.								Protected Forests.							
		Additions.				Exclusions.				Additions.				Exclusions.			
		By Notification.		By Rectification.		By Notification.		By Rectification.		By Notification.		By Rectification.		By Notification.		By Rectification.	
		Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.
1	East Khándesh	...	...	...	...	...	148	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	West Khándesh	143	182	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Násik	...	261	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Ahmednagar	...	217	1	435	...	222	...	485	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	30
5	Poona	3	137	...	...	...	94	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Sátára	15	16	...	153	2	222	...	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Sholápur	...	76	...	...	...	188	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	162	249	1	588	3	249	...	574	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	30

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

18. The work of forest settlement is practically complete in the Central Circle, the Forest Conservancy Projects of every táluka having been drawn up, approved and sanctioned by Government, but some occupied lands are contained within the conservancy reservation, and these are being acquired gradually by Forest Settlement Officers as opportunity may offer, when the rights attaching to them are inquired into, settled and recorded under the prescriptions of the forest law.

19. The following statement shows the areas acquired during the year and the method and cost of acquirement:—

No.	Division.	By Exchange.	By Purchase.		Acreage rate.
		Acres.	Acres.	Amount paid.	
				Rs.	Rs. a. p.
1	East Khándesh	...	324	1,647	5 1 4
2	West Khándesh	866	391	1,432	3 10 7
3	Násik	...	...	...	.....
4	Ahmednagar	89	100	1,311	13 1 9
5	Poona	412	47	142	3 0 4
6	Sátára	222	134	1,157	8 10 1
7	Sholápur	...	...	...	.....
	Total ...	1,589	996	5,689	5 11 4

20. Of the Khándesh divisions Mr. J. H. DuBoulay, I. C. S., Assistant Collector, was special Forest Settlement Officer throughout the year, in addition to his own Revenue and Magisterial duties. Occupied lands were acquired by purchase:—

No.	Táluka.	Area.	Compensation.
		Acres.	Rs.
1	Chálisgaon... ...	119	817
2	Jalgaon	205	830
3	Dhulia	335	1,313
4	Pimpalner	56	119
	Total ...	715	3,079

The settlement under the Forest Act was effected in respect of all occupied lands which have from time to time been acquired in Páchora, Sindkheda, Amalner and Jámner Tálukas, and draft notifications under Section 19 have been submitted to Government for publication for constituting them reserved forest. The demarcation of the forest boundary by pillars in Pimpalner and the Akráni was being carried out by the Surveyors of the Settlement Office under the supervision of Mr. DuBoulay; and other miscellaneous work was performed.

21. In the Násik Collectorate the Assistant and Deputy Collectors are *ex-officio* Forest Settlement Officers in respect of the tálukas in their respective Revenue sub-divisions. 35 acres were notified under Section 4, and 261 acres were finally notified under Section 19, after settlement proceedings in respect of them had been completed. 10 acres of reserved forests were disforested under Section 26. No lands were acquired in this district.

22. The Forest Settlement Office, Ahmednagar, was in charge of Mr. Vyankatesh Bápuji Vadekar, District Deputy Collector, throughout the year, in addition to his own Revenue and Magisterial duties; of occupied lands inside the forest boundaries 100 acres were acquired by purchase and 89 acres by exchange, Rs. 1,311 being paid by way of compensation for the former, and Government waste lands being given in exchange for the latter. 520 acres were notified under Section 4, but settlement inquiries in respect of them were not completed up to the close of the year.

23. Mr. H. W. J. Bagnell, I.C.S., was in charge of the Forest Settlement Office of the Poona division throughout the year except from 27th July to 26th October 1894, when Mr. T. D. Fry, I.C.S., temporarily held the office. Both these officers had their own Revenue and Magisterial duties to attend to in addition. 412 acres of occupied lands were acquired for forests by exchange and 47 acres of occupied lands by payment of compensation, Rs. 142—2,057 acres have been notified under Section 19, and 1,013 acres under Section 4. Settlement inquiries in respect of these lands are in progress. 94 acres were disforested under Section 26, and a proposal for the disforestment of certain lands bordering on the Nira Canal has been submitted for sanction. Comparative statements showing the changes in the survey numbers and area of forest land due to the introduction of the revision survey in the tálukas of Khed, Mával and Haveli, and peta Mulshi, have been prepared.

24. The Forest Settlement Office, Sátára, was in charge of Mr. S. R. Arthur, I.C.S., throughout the year in addition to his own duties as Second Assistant Collector. Forest registers according to the Revision Survey were completed for the Sátára, Koregaon, Wái, Khandála, Mán, Khatáv, Khánápur and Tásgaon ranges. 2,097 acres were notified under Section 4, and were settled. Fresh inquiries were held in respect of certain forest lands in the Khatáv and Mán Tálukas the rights in which had already been enquired into, but the proceedings had been quashed by the Collector on an appeal preferred by the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle. 222 acres have been acquired by exchange, and 134 acres by purchase; and Rs. 1,157 were paid in payment of compensation. All reports on the subject of conversion of Khálsa land into Inám in exchange for Inám land taken up for forest have been submitted for the sanction of Government in the case of Devasthán Inám, and for that of the Commissioner in the case of service Inám; and in all cases sanction has been accorded by Government and by the Commissioner respectively. Supplementary Village Forms (No. 1A) for each village in which new survey numbers have been added under Section 19 of the Forest Act by Government Notification No. 9510, dated 20th November 1894 and No. 4369A, dated 11th June 1895, have been prepared in duplicate in accordance with the notifications, and are being distributed, one copy being sent to the Range Forest Officer through the Divisional Forest Officer, and the other to the village concerned through the Collector. 9,616 acres have been added to forests and 1,502 acres have been excluded during the year under Sections 19 and 26 respectively.

25. In the Sholápur Collectorate the Assistant and Deputy Collectors are *ex-officio* Forest Settlement Officers. 76 acres were added to forests, and 188 acres disforested, under Sections 19 and 26 of the Forest Act respectively.

26. Forest and waste lands which have been provisionally notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act and which were still undergoing settlement inquiries at the close of the year, are exhibited in the following statement :—

No.	Division.	Area.		Remarks.
		Square miles.	Acres.	
1	East Khándesh	3	526	
2	West Khándesh	2	579	
3	Násik	...	35	
4	Ahmednagar	...	520	
5	Poona	2	461	
6	Sátára	3	177	
7	Sholápur	...	17	
	Total ...	13	395	

27. No privileges already conceded by Government in favour of the local population, or of any sections of them, in any of the divisions of the Central Circle have been rescinded or diminished, nor have their scope been enlarged; and no new privileges have been granted.

28. The following statement shows the details of expenditure charged to forests on account of the cost of forest settlements and the work accomplished during the year :—

No.	Division.	Work accomplished.		Cost of Establishments, &c.				Remarks.
		Square miles.	Acres.	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.	Contingencies.	Total Cost.	
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	East Khándesh ...	143	182	3,340	502	262	4,104	
2	West Khándesh ...							
3	Násik	...	261	...	...	...	...	
4	Ahmednagar	...	217	...	...	29	29	
5	Poona	3	137	1,099	410	231	1,740	
6	Sátára	15	16	1,289	195	207	1,691	
7	Sholápur	...	76	...	...	...	...	
	Total ...	162	249	5,728	1,107	729	7,564	

(iii).—DEMARCATION.

29. The work of erecting special forest boundary marks to demarcate forest boundaries was carried on during the year in all the divisions of the Central Circle to the following extent, and at the cost mentioned :—

No.	Division.	Length of Boundaries in miles.	Number of Special Boundary-marks.			Total cost.	Remarks.
			Large.	Small.	Total.		
1	East Khándesh	28	76	174	250	125	
2	West Khándesh	240	242	1,874	2,116	788	
3	Násik	189	2,415	6,077	8,492	3,709	
4	Ahmednagar	179	2,603	21	2,624	1,330	
5	Poona	62	1,674	357	2,031	1,110	
6	Sátára	126	49	3,045	3,094	670	
7	Sholápur	9	12	484	496	141	
	Total ...	833	7,071	12,032	19,103	7,873	

30. In the East Khándesh division intermediate cairns between those placed by the Forest Settlement Officer, so that they may be visible one from the other, were erected upon 28 miles of forest boundary line in the Chálisgaon, Ráver, Sávda and Yával ranges; and the boundary line was cleared of vegetation; old boundary-marks were maintained in repair.

31. In the West Khándesh division 1,400 cairns were erected by the Forest Settlement Officer in the Pimpalner and Akráni ranges at a cost of Rs. 609, and the Divisional Forest Officer erected 716 new marks at a cost of Rs. 179; and an expenditure of Rs. 231 was incurred on repairs to old pillars. A sum of Rs. 291 was spent on line cutting on forest boundaries.

32. In the Násik division demarcation was pushed vigorously in the Peint and Igatpuri ranges, and 3,105 and 2,773 cairns were built at a cost of Rs. 1,402 and Rs. 1,523 respectively; and 2,614 new cairns were erected in the other ranges save Niphád and Nándgaon, and old marks were maintained in repair.

33. Demarcation in the Ahmednagar division was carried on with vigour, 2,624 marks having been erected against 1,067 in the year preceding; and up to the end of the year the demarcation of boundaries in 162 villages out of 829 forest villages has been completed.

34. In the Poona division likewise fair progress was made, 2,031 cairns having been erected against 781 during 1893-94, at a cost of Rs. 1,110.

35. In the Sátára and Sholápur divisions owing to want of funds the progress was not so great as might otherwise have been. 3,094 cairns were erected at a cost of Rs. 670 in the former, while in the latter division, although funds were available, they were not fully utilised, and only 496 marks were put up at an expenditure of Rs. 141.

(iv).—SURVEYS.

36. The Forest Survey Party (No. 17) of the Government of India carried on their operations under the superintendence of Colonel Hobday in the divisions of Ahmednagar and Poona only of the Central Circle during the year, and the statement given below will show the details of the work done and the expenditure incurred on its account:—

No.	Division.	Detail Survey.						Total cost.
		4″	Cost.	8″	Cost.	16″	Cost.	
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
1	Ahmednagar ...	...	...	106·14	10,941	23 83	2,719	13,660
2	Poona	159·35	12,640	6·89	782	0·41	54	13,476
	Total ...	159·35	12,640	113·03	11,723	24·24	2,773	27,136

37. The cost rates per square mile of the different scales are given below as compared with those of last year:—

1893-94.		1894-95.	
Scale.	Cost Rate.	Scale.	Cost Rate.
	Rs. a. p		Rs. a. p.
4″	84 9 3	4″	81 1 4
8″	134 13 7	8″	110 13 7
16″	179 6 7	16″	116 7 3

38. The Superintendent, Forest Surveys, states that the cost rates are, as usual, calculated from the totals of the *survey year* ending 30th September 1895, because the totals thus obtained correctly represent the actual cost of each Survey and its subsequent mapping during the recess; whereas if the total of the forest year were taken, it would represent the cost of one survey season, and the mapping of the surveys of the previous survey season of a totally different locality; and as the total expenditure for the survey year, Rs. 27,712, does not widely differ from the total expenditure of the forest year, Rs. 27,136, the cost rates are not materially affected.

39. The following statement shows a comparison of the outturn and cost of the forest surveys undertaken during the survey years 1893-94 and 1894-95 :—

Year.	Triangulation.		Detailed Survey.						Rate per Square mile.		
			4″ Scale.		8″ Scale.		16″ Scale.				
	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	Area.	Cost.	4″.	8″.	16″.
	Sq.miles.	Rs.	Sq.miles.	Rs.	Sq.miles.	Rs.	Sq.miles.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1893-94 ...	200	1,192	8·60	727	112·85	15,214	65·0	11,662	84 9 3	134 13 7	179 6 7
1894-95 ...	...	...	159·35	12,918	113·03	11,970	24·24	2,824	81 1 4	110 3 7	116 7 3

40. The Forest Survey Party No. 17 of the Government of India, in addition to undertaking the surveys of forest reserves for the Forest Department, surveys and maps for the standard topographical sheets of the Survey of the Indian Empire, which are published on the scale of 1 inch equal to 1 mile, country outside forest reservations in the Kánara district as well as the country covered by forest areas, but the entire cost of the survey party for the whole year is charged to the Forest Department, and no fraction of it is charged to the Government of India in the Topographical Survey Department on account of the topographical survey work done by the party in Kánara. In order to arrive at the rates of cost of different forest surveys on different scales, to the actual cost of the field and mapping work is added a proportionate share of the cost of supervision, *i. e.* of the Superintendent's pay, &c., and of the head-quarters charges of No. 17 party. But if the actual cost of the topographical survey work performed by the party in Kánara were to be deducted from the amount now charged to the Forest Department on account of forest surveys, and if its proportionate share of supervision and of head-quarters charges were to be deducted also, and were to be added to the cost of the topographical survey in Kánara, then the rates for the survey work in the three circles on the different scales of 16,″ 8″ and 4″ equal to one mile would be lower than the Superintendent of Forest Survey shows them to have been, and the figures would consequently represent more correctly the actual or real cost of forest surveys.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(*a*).—Working Plans and their Control.

41. The newly created Working Plans Division for the Central Circle was in charge of Mr. L. S. Osmaston, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 4th Grade, sub. *pro-tem.* throughout the year, whose operations were confined to the divisions of East Khándesh, Násik, Ahmednagar and Poona.

42. The field establishment which was not brought up to its full strength before the 1st January 1895, laid out 272 compartments on the ground at a cost of Rs. 516 during the working season: of these 272 compartments 45 with an acreage of 148·7 represent the Bábool compartments in the Poona divi-